



Newsletter – Winter 2024 (Volume 12, Issue #1)

www.potsdamband.org PotsdamCommunityBand@gmail.com, (315) 265-2883

Greetings–Thanks for a wonderful winter concert!

Thank you to all of our almost 75 musicians for a very successful winter session of PCB! Our 35th “concertversary” was very well played and exceedingly well received by one of our largest, if not THE largest, winter concert gatherings ever! Despite the obstacles of a weather-related rehearsal cancellation, and an under-the-weather director (thank you to Paul Buell for filling in for Theresa at the last minute!), the musical moments were many, and the warm applause we received reflected our efforts.

Plans are well underway for a very exciting summer session, which will include Dr. Jim Madeja on the podium!

Paul Haggett, Information Captain for
the PCB Leadership Team:

Theresa Witmer, Music Director; Librarian Coordinator
Tammy Madeja, Producer
Ron Berry, Treasurer
Jennifer Myers, Personnel Manager
Brienne Sterling, Program Leader
Michael Lahendro, Patricia Matthews, Set-up Captains



Winter Session Recap

If you were not among the over 70 musicians who played the Fall/Winter 2023-24 session of PCB, you missed another peak experience! Our band continues to attract several new players every session, and these newbies are a wonderful combination of adults and students. We especially love to see the students putting their talents and their musical training in our schools to work. Highlights of the music this past session included *Black Watch*, a concert march by Claude T. Smith; music by two African American composers: *Juba Dance* by Florence Price and a wonderful setting of *Shenandoah* by Omar Thomas; *Trumpeter’s Lullaby* and *Bugler’s Holiday*, both by Leroy Anderson, and featuring the brilliant playing of Paul Buell, Diana Martin and Steve LaMere; and Erika Svanoë’s homage to space-based sci-fi *Where No One Has Gone Before*.





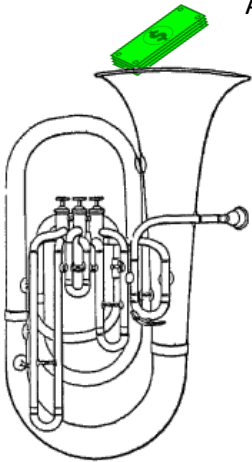
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Winter Recap (con't)

Also on the program were *Selections from Annie*, themes from *Star Trek*, Carol Barnett's *Cyprian Suite, Mvt. 1*, and *Rocky and Bullwinkle Strike Again*. As always, the music was fun, very interesting and, at times, quite challenging!

Our recent requests for voluntary donations from band members at the start of each session has helped Potsdam Community Band's bottom line so much! THANK YOU! These donations, combined with the "donation tuba" proceeds at the concert and funds donated by Cathy Cook and Maggie McGuire from their Holiday "Hot Cross Bun" sale, meant a whopping \$2,423 in donations this session! This money is vital to our operations; to date over \$1,044 has been spent acquiring music, paying our annual Association of Concert Bands (ACB) dues, rehearsal and concert hall rental to SUNY Potsdam, and a number of other expenses. So again, THANK YOU for your help in keeping PCB financially viable!



We want your opinion...and your shirt size!

As most of you know, PCB has played two concerts every summer for the last several years. Our first is always for the Potsdam Summer Festival, and the second is the following week in Madrid. Both of those gigs are locked in for summer 2024.



Many communities in our area sponsor summer concert series, and every summer, the Adirondack community of Lake George holds a weekend-long Community Band Festival (which PCB participated in in 2015). So, there MAY be opportunities in the future



to play even MORE summer concerts. The leadership team would like to know, in general, what the appetite is among our members for pursuing other concert opportunities. Below is a link to a Google survey that we would love to have you fill out to help us get clarity on that question.

Also, as part of the survey, we'd like to know how many of you would like to purchase a PCB polo shirt for use at our summer concerts. It has been quite a few years since we offered shirts for sale, so please let us know whether you'd like one (approximate cost \$25-\$35). And don't forget to tell us your shirt size...it's on the survey, too!



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Here's the survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTHMeY2jWdEkCFVNVFVm86SHjY-fExNHRW-4fUHsePw9hv-A/viewform>

Summer 2024

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Jim Madeja will be on the conductor's podium for the summer session. If you know of anyone you think would like to join the Potsdam Community Band, please forward this newsletter to them and send us their email address. We'll be happy to share all of our plans for the summer with them! Rehearsals will commence Monday, May 20, at the Crane School of Music. Be sure to complete our Summer sign-up survey when it hits your inbox in April!



Performance schedule for Summer 2024:

- Friday, July 12 as part of the Potsdam Summer Festival. Concert time 5:00 pm.
- July 17 as part of the Madrid Dam Concert Series. Concert time, 6 pm.

Help us attract new members—

Potsdam Community Band welcomes new members. We hope you'll pass this Newsletter along to anyone who might be interested.

Help PCB grow its music Library!

As an all-volunteer band completely dependent on donations from our audience (and now our membership!), we are truly appreciative of several band members who have made generous donations to PCB, so that not ALL of our music must be borrowed for each session. If you, or someone you know would be interested in purchasing music for PCB, please check with our music director first, as not ALL band arrangements are created equal! Please email Theresa Witmer at PotsdamCommunityBand@gmail.com.





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Volunteers always needed

Have an idea for something that would make the band (or the band experience) better? Email PotsdamCommunityBand@gmail.com with your suggestions! We are also actively looking for a band member (or even a spouse or other family member) interested in being the band's photo documentarian! We'd love to have someone come and take photos during rehearsals and the concerts!

Another need for the summer concerts is a driver for the UHaul van we must rent to get large percussion equipment and music stands to our concert sites. Interested? Send us an email!

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT WINTER SESSION OF PCB!!

